

Michigan Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Summary
of
April 19, 2007, GWCAC Meeting
RAM Conference Center, Roscommon, Michigan

Council Members

Jon Allan	Sumedh Bahl
Rich Bowman	Jim Cleland
James Clift	Jon Coleman
Michael Gregg	Craig Hoffman
Thomas Newhof	Bill Pearson
Scott Piggott	Dr. Paul Seelbach
Dr. Alan Steinman	

Guests

Patricia Fouchey - MDNR	Fred Goldberg - MMLOJ
Dave Hamilton - MDEQ-LWMD	Bard Johnson - Golder
Shaw Lacy - U of M	Jim Nicholas - USGS
Frank Ruswick - MDEQ	Dr. Ed Rutherford - U of M
Andreanne Simard - Golder	Troy Zorn - MDNR

Introductions / Meeting logistics

Dr. Paul Seelbach welcomed everyone and started the meeting with a quote by W. Cronon; "Calling a place home inevitably means that we will use the nature that we find in it, for there can be no escape from manipulating and working and even killing some parts of nature to make our home. But if we acknowledge the autonomy and value of the things and creatures around us- then we will think carefully about the uses to which we put them, and sometimes ask if we should even use them at all."

All those present introduced themselves.

Sustainability Committee Report

A one day workshop to recommend criteria and indicators for Groundwater Sustainability was held the last Monday of March. Dr. Alan Steinman thanked all of the council members who attended the workshop. A draft report was sent out to all of the council members the beginning of the week. Comments are requested by Friday April 27. The subcommittee will review comments from the council members, make changes as they feel appropriate, and approve report. The finished report will then be available for public comment. The Chairs complimented Dr. Steinman on the success of the workshop.

Legal Committee

Decision Making Framework – "March 14 Draft document: Proposed water withdrawal decision-making structure part 327" was distributed. There is no consensus yet within the subcommittee.

Presumption – no consensus by subcommittee. Ditto 32722 (revised) was distributed to the council members.

The Subcommittee will discuss these issues again before the next general meeting. As of yet no meeting dates has been scheduled.

Assessment Tool

A PowerPoint presentation on habitat sustainability curves was made by Troy Zorn. He gave the council members the nuts and bolts of the fish model. Species were chosen that there is enough data available of river size (catchment), temperature and low-flow yield to do a model. 1700 sites were used to get data. The model simply scores a site. There is a mean condition, if between 1 standard deviation still within top of curve. Site looks at Low-flow yield, catchment area, and July mean temperature for each species and comes up with a number. Each species has their own optima.

Mitigation process and principles

PowerPoint called mitigation principles which has not been endorsed by subcommittee was shown by Jon Allan. Mr. Allan passed out his notes only to council member for their review and comments.

Guiding principles

Scott Piggott distributed a packet of guiding principles drafts and comments. He then passed out a punch list. The punch list was reviewed and changes noted.

Administrative process

A. Testimony requests

Jon Allan had been contacted by Senator Patty Bircholtz and House Representation Joel Sheltroun to give an update in early May. The Council recommended all three chairman; Jon Allan, Kurt Heise and Paul Seelbach, go as a team to represent the Council.

B. Time management

1. What can we get done by July 1?
 - Will have the basic concept of the tool
 - Will have a report
 - All lower watersheds will be done
 - Defined what policy knobs are, how they work
2. What will not be done?
 - UP watershed will not be done
 - How mitigation will work into plan
 - The water assessment screening tool will not be functional outside of group before July 1. It should be ready by September for public viewing and comment.

C. Report preparation and timing

By the June 8th meeting ghost writer, Jim Nicholas, would like the information needed for the outline that was created in September.

Next Meeting Dates

May 15, 2007, from 10:00 till 3:00 in the President's Room at the Farm Bureau Center in Lansing.

June 8, 2007 from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm in the Lodge Meeting Room at 33494 S. Maxton Road on Drummond Island.

Dates / times were set but no locations: July 10, August 2, and September 11. 10:00 to 3:00